



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHILLICOTHE RESIDENTS SENTENCED IN METH CONSPIRACY

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that three Chillicothe, Mo., residents were sentenced in federal court today for their role in a conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine.

Jake A. Mashburn, 39, **Samantha J. Mashburn**, 37, and **Thomas A. Ludtke**, 52, all of Chillicothe, were sentenced by Chief U.S. District Judge Dean Whipple this morning.

Jake Mashburn was sentenced to 15 years in federal prison without parole, **Samantha Mashburn** was sentenced to seven years in federal prison without parole and **Ludtke** was sentenced to five years in federal prison without parole.

On June 22, 2005, **Jake Mashburn** and **Samantha Mashburn** pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute between 500 grams and 1.5 kilograms of methamphetamine between Aug. 1, 2004, and Oct. 23, 2004.

Additionally, **Samantha Mashburn** admitted that she illegally possessed a Stevens Savage Arms .22-caliber rifle during the conspiracy. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Samantha Mashburn** has three prior criminal felony convictions.

On June 20, 2005, **Ludtke** also pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute between 50 and 500 kilograms of methamphetamine between Aug. 1, 2004, and Oct. 23, 2004.

The co-defendants were originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Jan. 12, 2005, in Kansas City.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce Rhoades. It was investigated by the Chillicothe, Mo., Police Department and the United States Postal Inspection Service.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow